



Illustration by Janet Wingate;  
From 'Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide'

## ***PAPAVER KLUANENSIS*** **ALPINE POPPY**

Alpine Poppy is a short-lived perennial with milky sap and leafless stems that are 6-20 cm high and which arise from a taproot. The numerous basal leaves are 2-8 cm long and pinnately lobed into ca. 5 unequal, elliptic segments. The foliage is sparsely covered with long, light-colored hairs. The single cup-shaped flower at the tip of each stem nods in the bud but is upright in bloom. The 2 sepals fall as the flower opens. The 4 wedge-shaped, sulphur-yellow petals are ca. 15 mm long and broadly rounded at the tip. There are ca. 25 stamens. The ovary matures into a many-seeded, egg-shaped capsule that is covered with stiff brown hairs. Flowering in August.

This is the only alpine poppy in southern Montana.